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Defense Intelligence Summary

12 November 1986



Defense Intelligence Agency

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DINSUM 218-86

[REDACTED]

USSR-AFGHANISTAN: Chemical Warfare. (U)

(U) The Soviets used a chemical weapon in several incidents in September against Afghan resistance fighters who had taken refuge in caves, according to a recent Mujahedin news release from Pakistan.

(U) The incidents reportedly took place from the 4th to the 10th during a Soviet sweep in the Paghman area northwest of Kabul. The victims were apparently photographed by Islamic organizational representatives in the area. A doctor attending the rebels verified that 47 were killed. The Soviets reportedly released "bottled gas" into the cave and set it off with a charge of TNT. Articles recovered from a cave following the explosion were said to be covered with a yellow film.

COMMENT: [REDACTED] This information is similar to other reports of Soviet use of incendiary materials against the Mujahedin seeking shelter in caves, dry wells, and other closed areas. Although defined by the Soviets as chemical weapons, incendiaries are not covered by treaties or agreements banning their use, as are toxic gases. The deliberate use of such materials against the resistance fighters is further evidence of Soviet practices more closely resembling genocide than either psychological operations or conventional warfare. [REDACTED]

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